

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the time taken by the Examiner to review Applicant's present application. This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Official Action mailed June 1, 2006 ("Office Action"). Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this case. As noted in the previous Reply filed February 28, 2006, the Office Action erroneously refers to the Schwartz reference as U.S. Patent No 6,347,234. U.S. Patent No 6,347,234 is issued to Scherzer. The correct U. S. Patent No. for the Schwartz reference is 6,434,115.

Claim Status

Claims 2-6, 13-19, 22-24, and 26-33 were pending. Claims 2-6 and 32-33 have been allowed. Claims 13-19, 22-24, and 26-31 were rejected. Claims 13-19, 22-24, and 26-31 are cancelled herein to expedite prosecution and place the present application in a condition for allowance. By this Amendment, only allowed claims 2-6 and 32-33 are pending.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 13-19, 22-24, and 26-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,434,115 ("Schwartz") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,781,984 ("Adam"). Claims 13-19, 22-24, and 26-31 are cancelled herein, rendering the rejections moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant has now made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. Other than as explicitly set forth above, this reply does not include any acquiescence to statements, assertions, assumptions, conclusions, or any combination thereof in the Office Action. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicant respectfully requests full allowance of claims 2-6 and 32-33. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below for prompt action in the event any issues remain.

The Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-3183 of Sprinkle IP Law Group.

Respectfully submitted,

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